

REMARKS

This paper is being provided in response to the Final Office Action dated March 28, 2006, and is being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) within two months of the Decision on Appeal dated September 2, 2008, received for the above-captioned U.S. patent application. In this response, Applicants have amended claims 1-6 and 17-22 to clarify that which Applicants consider to be the presently-claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims are fully supported by the originally-filed specification, as discussed below.

Applicants note that claim 17 has been amended to clarify that the computer software is stored on a computer readable storage medium and that is executable by at least one processor in view of recent guidelines and court precedent on this issue. Applicants refer, for example, to page 9, line 19 - page 20, line 5 and page 23, lines 8-14, among other locations throughout the specification, that discuss the use of computer memory in connection with a processor executing functions. A computer memory is an example of a computer-readable storage medium.

The rejection of Claims 1, 5-6, 17, 21-22, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pouban et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,104,718, hereinafter referred to as "Pouban") in view of Brackett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,519,632, hereinafter referred to as "Brackett") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,871 to Atkin et al. (hereinafter "Atkin") is hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1, as amended herein, is directed to a method of providing multiple jobs for a first communication device that exchanges data with a second communication device. The method is recited as including providing a plurality of device records, where each of the device records corresponds to the first communication device; providing a plurality of job records for at least one of the device records, where each of the job records contains at least some information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records and where at least one of the job records corresponds to tasks performed in connection with exchanging data between the first communication device and the second communication device, and linking the job records and the corresponding device record so that any one of the job records may be accessed by first accessing the corresponding one of the device records, where jobs corresponding to the job records associated with a particular device record are serviceable by different entities, and wherein at least one of the jobs is serviced by one of the different entities accessing the particular device record, the different entities being linked to the job record corresponding to the at least one of the jobs, and then servicing the at least one of the jobs. Claims 2-6 and 27 depend from Claim 1.

Independent claim 17, as amended herein, recites computer software, stored on a computer-readable medium and executable by at least one processor, that provides multiple jobs for a first communication device that exchanges data with a second communication device. The software is recited as including executable code that provides a plurality of device records, where each of the device records corresponds to

the first communication device; executable code that provides a plurality of job records for at least one of the device records, where each of the job records contains at least some information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records and where at least one of the job records corresponds to tasks performed in connection with exchanging data between the first communication device and the second communication device, and executable code that links the job records and the corresponding device record so that any one of the job records may be accessed by first accessing the corresponding one of the device records, where jobs corresponding to the job records associated with a particular device record are serviceable by different entities, and wherein at least one of the jobs is serviced by one of the different entities accessing the particular device record, the different entities__being linked to the job record corresponding to the at least one of the jobs, and then servicing the at least one of the jobs. Claims 18-22 depend from Claim 17.

The Pouban reference discloses providing multiple jobs for a device associated with a communication device. As indicated at item 3 of the Office Action, Pouban does not teach that the job records contain information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records and exchanging data between the two communication devices.

The Bracket reference discloses a method and apparatus for configuring an image system to communicate with multiple remote devices. The Office Action indicates at item 3 that Brackett teaches having job records containing information that is also

provided in the corresponding one of the device records for a system that communicates with multiple remotely located storage or printing devices as set forth at column 5, lines 30-33, column 8, lines 5-16, Fig. 2, Fig. 6 and 8.

The Atkin reference discloses a system and method for managing multiple cultural profiles in an information handling system. The Office Action indicates that Atkin discloses an input/output adaptor for connection disk units, for example, and that Atkin also discloses another entity such as a communication adaptor, wherein it transfers data and links the device with hundreds or even thousands of similar devices such as remote printers, remote services, or remote storage units.

In response to the Final Office Action and the Decision on Appeal, Applicants have amended the independent claims to recite at least the features of linking the job records and the corresponding device record so that any one of the job records may be accessed by first accessing the corresponding one of the device records, wherein jobs corresponding to the job records associated with a particular device record are serviceable by different entities, linking the job records and the corresponding device record so that any one of the job records may be accessed by first accessing the corresponding one of the device records, wherein jobs corresponding to the job records associated with a particular device record are serviceable by different entities, and wherein at least one of the jobs is serviced by one of the different entities accessing the particular device record, the different entities being linked to the job record corresponding to the at least one of the jobs, and then servicing the at least one of the jobs.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Pouban, nor Brackett, nor Atkin, nor any combination thereof show, teach, or suggest the above-noted features. These features of the present claimed invention allow operations for a device to be handled more quickly and efficiently by allowing multiple entities (including entities that are relatively idle) to assist. For example, in the case of a background copy operation, the associated jobs may be handled by multiple entities, thus allowing the background copy operation to complete sooner. According to the presently-claimed invention, multiple entities may service device jobs by one of the multiple entities accessing a particular device, being linked to the job record of a job and then servicing the job. Applicants refer, for example, to Figures 11 and 12 and the discussion thereof on page 25, line 5 to page 27, line 9 of the originally-filed specification.

In contrast, Applicants submit that none of the cited references disclose the above-noted features. Pouban does not teach that the job records contain information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records, and thus there does not appear to be any mechanism in Pouban for having an entity other than the device itself service job records for the device. Furthermore, even if Brackett teaches having job records containing information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records for a system that communicates with multiple remotely located storage or printing devices, there still is no teaching whatsoever in Brackett of having the job records of a particular device being able to be serviced by multiple entities. Data structures like those described in the present specification are used to make jobs for one

device be serviceable by other entities. No such data structure (or anything that could perform the same or similar function) is described in Brackett.

In addition, the Office Action indicates, on page 3 thereof, that Pouban and Brackett are silent with respect to jobs corresponding to the job records associated with a particular device record being serviceable by different entities, as recited in the claims. As noted above, the Office Action cites to Atkin as disclosing discloses an input/output adaptor for connection disk units, for example, and another entity such as a communication adaptor, wherein it transfers data and links the device with hundreds or even thousands of similar devices such as remote printers, remote services, or remote storage units. Applicants respectfully submit that Atkin does not overcome the deficiencies of Pouban and Brackett with respect to the presently-claimed invention. In the first place, even though Atkin teaches use of a communication adaptor (34), Atkin does not appear to teach job records for servicing the adaptor. In contrast, the present independent claims clearly recite providing a plurality of job records wherein at least one of the job records corresponds to tasks performed in connection with exchanging data. Atkin is silent regarding detailed operation of the communication adaptor (34) and it is not clear whether any sort of job record (or equivalent) is used at all in Atkin.

Furthermore, in the Decision on Appeal (page 11), the Board comments on Applicants arguments that there is no disclosure in Atkin that any print jobs are printed using any communication adaptor and that "Atkin does not disclose the specific mechanism used to instruct these devices to perform these jobs (referring to Appellant's

Reply Brief on pages 7 and 8), stating that these were features discussed by Appellants that were not commensurate with Appellants' claimed invention. As discussed above, Applicants have further clarified in the amended claims herein that at least one of the jobs is serviced by one of the different entities accessing the particular device record, being linked to the job record corresponding to the at least one of the jobs, and then servicing the at least one of the jobs. Applicants submit that the use of the device records and job records in connection with the serviceability and servicing of jobs as recited by Applicants are not disclosed by Atkin nor any of the other cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Poublan, Brackett nor Atkin, taken alone or in combination, teach or fairly suggest at least the above-noted features as claimed by Applicants. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 2-4 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poublan in view of Brackett and further in view of James (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,376, hereinafter referred to as "James"), is hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims contained herein.

Poublan and Brackett are summarized above. Furthermore, since claims 2-4 depend from independent claim 1 and claims 18-20 depend from independent claim 17,

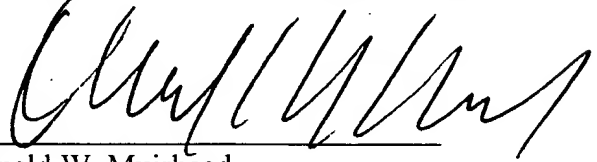
then Applicants assume that this rejection includes Atkin, which was used to reject claims 1 and 17.

James discloses a system for converting between the states of fresh and owned in a multiprocessor computer system comprising a memory line with a structure including a first field for storing a memory state, a second field for storing an address and a third field for storing data. (See Abstract). James relates to a system and method for maintaining cache coherence that is even driven and changes the state of the caches and memories based on the current memory state and a head of a list of corresponding cache entries. (Col. 1, Lines 17-23).

Applicants respectfully submit that the deficiencies of Pouban, Brackett, and Atkin with respect to the independent claims 1 and 17, discussed above, are not overcome by the addition of the James reference nor are the features discussed above in connection with Pouban, Brackett and Atkin cited in the Office Action in connection with James. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 508-898-8603.

Respectfully submitted,
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